

THE QUEEN'S RECEPTION OF AMERICAN NURSES AND DOCTORS

BY M. EUGÉNIE HIBBARD *

WITH the sad event of Her Majesty's death fresh in my mind, and while the grief of a nation—and I might add nations—is still unassuaged, it is with much gratification and pleasure that I look back a little more than thirteen months, when, having received my appointment as superintending sister of the hospital ship Maine and shortly after our arrival in London, we were, by the kindness of H. R. H. Princess Christian, extended through Mrs. Dunlop Hopkins, invited to lunch at Windsor Castle.

December 4, 1899, is a day the memory of which can never die, and is now revived by the sad intelligence of the death of one whose queenly womanly character and unbounded sympathy outlived and grew beyond the conventional restraints of court life.

Leaving Paddington by train about one P.M., we soon arrived at Windsor Station, where we alighted and found the Queen's carriages waiting to take us to the Castle. We were a small party, consisting of Mrs. Dunlop Hopkins, five nurses, and five physicians. The usual number of townspeople, curious to know for whom Her Majesty's conveyances were intended, crowded around in a respectful manner and watched us start.

After a drive of a few minutes we caught a glimpse of the stately pile called Windsor Castle, lost sight of and found again, each time presenting a different view. The country is hilly and the road naturally circuitous.

At the Castle gates the sentinels paced, and we passed beyond into the quadrangle unchallenged, and were driven to the equerries' entrance, where we were received by Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton, and after removing our wraps and adjusting our caps were conducted through St. George's Hall and various rooms of state.

Under circumstances of unusual favor we were allowed to inspect the private apartments of the Queen, and later were shown the suite of rooms recently occupied by the German Emperor and Empress. . . . Luncheon being announced, we partook of it in what is known as the Octagon Room. The view from here is very fine, the large windows on three sides overlooking the river Thames, at one of its prettiest turns,

and Eton Hall. The sun, bursting from its bonds of December clouds, added much to the scenery and to our spirits.

During luncheon it was intimated that Her Majesty would receive the nurses and doctors in her private sitting-room at three o'clock.

After receiving this information the luncheon played a minor part, and we soon arose, feeling satisfied we were sufficiently strengthened to partake of the crowning honor we had scarcely dared to hope for. . . .

At the time stated we were escorted by Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton to Her Majesty's private sitting-room, accompanied by Mrs. Dunlop Hopkins. The Queen entered supported by her faithful Indian attendants. Princess Henry of Battenberg and Princess Christian were also present, and in attendance was the Dowager Lady Southampton.

Mrs. Dunlop Hopkins was first received by the Queen, and Princess Henry of Battenberg intimated to her Her Majesty's wish that each nurse be named, which was done, each one coming forward and courtesying profoundly. Following my presentation were the four Sisters, Miss V. Ludekins, Miss J. Manly, Miss M. MacPherson, and Miss T. MacVeau. To each one Her Majesty bowed acknowledgments, and looking at us for a moment, smiled, then graciously said:

"I am very pleased to see you. It is very sweet of you to have come, and I want to say to you how much I appreciate your kindness in coming here to help take care of *my men*."

The doctors were then named to the Queen, who said a few words of thanks also to them, and we retired.

Her Majesty's expression and tone of voice betrayed the keen interest she took in the war and the sympathy it elicited from her personally.

I feel the greatest honor has been conferred upon us and our profession by this generous act of Her Majesty (the Queen of a most conservative court) in sending us out to South Africa with such kind words of appreciation, which will ever live in my heart. A twilight now reigns over the memory of my visit to Windsor Castle, colored like the rainbow hues that fall in Gothic cathedrals through variegated windows, and the atmosphere is filled with the odor of rosemary.

WE always like those who admire us; we do not always like those whom we admire.—LA ROCHEFOUCAULD.

A MAN'S mind is known by the company it keeps.—LOWELL.



MRS. DITA H. KINNEY

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PERHAPS the most conspicuous woman in the nursing profession to-day is Mrs. Dita H. Kinney, who is in charge of the Nurse Corps of the United States Army.

Mrs. Kinney is a native of New York State, and received her education at Mills College, California. She was married in 1874, but was left a widow four years later, with one son. She graduated from the Training-School of the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1892.

Mrs. Kinney's first work after graduating was in the lecture field. In several cities in New England she gave series of lectures on nursing subjects that were very successful. For three years Mrs. Kinney was employed by the Massachusetts Emergency Hygienic Association of Boston to carry on a peculiar line of work for them, which consisted in teaching the poor mothers residing in the tenement-houses the fundamental principles of hygiene and of the care of their children, lecturing to associations of young women connected with churches, Christian Associations, etc., also starting the work of training attendants for assistants to trained nurses. As this engagement only occupied her eight months in the year, Mrs. Kinney carried on the same line of work during the summer months in several other cities. In institutional work Mrs. Kinney has been connected with the Almshouse Hospital on Long Island, Boston Harbor; the City and County Hospital, St. Paul, Minnesota, and the French Hospital, San Francisco.

Mrs. Kinney has also done some private nursing. She entered the army at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, and was stationed at the Presidio, but was released from this detail to assume charge of a convalescent home for soldiers which was established by the Red Cross ladies in the foot-hills back of Oakland, remaining until the home was no longer needed and was closed. She then returned to her old position at the French Hospital, where she remained for eight months, but, finding conditions impossible, she again resigned and reentered the army, where she served as operating-room nurse for one year at the Presidio.

When the Government Hospital at Nagasaki was projected, which was to have been an eighteen-hundred-bed affair, for the sick of the allied troops from China, having been recommended for promotion, she was given the appointment of chief nurse. The arrangements went so far that the medical supplies were on the dock, the commanding officer had left San Francisco, and a body of ten nurses had been sent from the East, when the scheme was abandoned. Then followed a short detail as chief nurse at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, from which place she was ordered to report to the Surgeon-General in Washington, where she was

offered the position made vacant by Dr. McGee's resignation, the charge of the Army Nurse Corps.

Mrs. Kinney is unquestionably a woman of culture and experience. Her professional training is of the best. She has occupied executive positions creditably, and she is familiar from hard experience with the existing conditions in the army. She would seem to be an ideal woman for this most difficult position, and she should receive the most cordial support of the women of her profession.

THE DUTIES OF AN OPERATING-ROOM NURSE

BY MARTHA LUCE

Boston

THE duties of an operating-room nurse, especially if they include the care of the sterilizing-room, are very numerous. They require a knowledge of the principles of asepsis, careful attention to details, and much forethought in the preparation of supplies.

The care of the operating-room includes dusting with clean, damp cloths, polishing of glass, tables, and utensils, careful supervision of floor-scrubbing and metal-polishing, and the regulation of the temperature and ventilation of the room. In addition to the daily cleaning, it is desirable to use a solution of corrosive sublimate (1 to 3000) before an operation, especially before a laparotomy, and all basins to be used for sterile water or any of the antiseptic solutions should be thoroughly cleansed with the same strength of corrosive solution.

All bottles of solutions and jars of dressings must be kept filled, and there must be a supply of bandages (gauze and cotton rollers), pins, and sterile gauze and cotton. Sterile glass irrigating-tubes, catheters, and vaginal douche tubes are kept in ninety-five per cent. alcohol, also a few rubber drainage-tubes.

The surgeons' retiring-room must be kept in perfect order, and supplied with soap, nail-brushes, orange-wood sticks, and towels. Special nail-brushes are reserved for laparotomies. Each one is pinned up in a piece of compress, boiled twenty minutes, and kept in corrosive sublimate solution (1 to 3000).

In the sterilizing-room are usually kept supplies of sterile goods, rubber gloves, ligatures, needles, dressings, and salt-solution, and here the nurse makes most of her preparations. Gowns, sheets, towels, and sponges have to be folded in the regulation way and pinned securely in a double thickness of cotton cloth, each package being marked to specify